

USEP-OHIO Discover Parenting Discussion Points for Winning Photos 2018

New Special Topics Category -

Human Trafficking; Opioid/Substance Abuse; Safe at School and Community; Safe in a New Land

First Place Winner:

"Opioids Destroy"

James Leatham, Piqua, OH

Upper Valley Career center, Piqua, OH

Teacher - Bev Holthaus

James created a thoughtful and artful look at the personal impact Opioid Abuse has on its victims - the addict, the friends and family members both children and adults, and the entire community.

As our country struggles, Ohio is at the very apex of the national crisis.

Ohio Family and Consumer Sciences educators are among the many teaching groups who have shared personal stories about their own heartbreaking and frustrating experiences:

Students who became addicted, and simply "dropped out" in every way;

Parents of their students - who are addicts, and neglect their children, in every realm (emotionally, physically, socially) leaving them to survive on their own;

Parents who have died of overdoses and the enormity of the impact on our students and their siblings, family members, friends, school districts, courts, law enforcement, and all of us struggling to keep up with the constant impact of these complex crises and the lifelong results.

Original Category - Road and Home Safety

First Place Winner:

"Look at Me...Mommy's Focusing on Bath Safety"

Jessica Hatfield, Sidney, OH

Upper Valley Career Center, OH (Sidney H.S. Satellite) Piqua, OH

Teacher - Bev Holthaus

Jessica's photo is such a delightful one, and evidence that bright, beautiful babies touch our lives in ways we never expected! This healthy baby is everything that reflects the joy of parenting and the importance of protecting little ones as they grow physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually.

The biggest surprise about bath time is that from the first time a parent nervously attempts to bathe the baby, until both baby and parent become relative experts at the bath event, it becomes a joy for both!

Bath time is full of challenge, and Jessica and other students learn the importance of keeping baby safe during the bath and before and after bathing, as Jessica's photo illustrates.

Second Place Winner:

"Hold Their Hand to Keep Them Safe wherever Vehicles are - or could be - around"

Maria LoCicero, Youngstown, OH

Mahoning County Career and Technical Center; Canfield, OH

Teacher - Julie Pagnotta

This lovely photo reflects a serene neighborhood scene in winter, and how careful guidance of parent or grandparent who also teaches the skills needed to properly cross the street and walk safely at any time of year, can keep our precious children safe, through childhood and into adulthood - when they will teach their *own* children to walk safely. This photo offers reassurance of continuity in family and community

life. It truly reflects the very nature of successful parenting - teaching skills that expand and grow with repetition and practice in common and gentle settings of everyday life.

Third Place Winner:

"Ready for some safe fun in the sun...don't forget the sunscreen"

Taylor Ceja, Youngstown, OH

Mahoning County Career and Technical Center; Canfield, OH

Teacher - Julie Pagnotta

As health statistics tell the story, Americans of all ages are struggling from skin cancers at an increasingly alarming rate. "Don't forget the sunscreen" is certainly a critical message of our time. Taylor's photo is wonderful fun and full of anticipation! Carrying the chairs, surfboards, toys and other equipment will make for an exciting and perfect beach experience. And the wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, sun and balance of shade, plus parents guiding and leading the kids are all reminders that the fun is possible when precautions are observed to make the day safe for everyone!

Honorable Mention:

"Learning My ABC's Early...Alone...Back...Crib!"

Elizabeth Fleming, Sidney, OH

Upper Valley Career Center, Piqua, OH;

Teacher - Beverly Holthaus

This sweetly sleeping infant is a great reminder of one of the most important lessons parents of infants learn and must remember every time they put their baby to sleep. As SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and the mysteries of infant death research has shown us, we can do better!

Our reminder tool is simply ABC depicted here in Elizabeth's photo.

A - Put me to bed **Alone!** B - On my **Back!** C - In my **Crib!**

Honorable Mention:

"Water Fun Means Safety Fun Too!"

Kallista Medley, Poland, OH

Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, Canfield, OH

This toddler looks slightly wary of what is to come! Kallista's photo reveals both the excitement and the insecurity of a child anticipating a new experience. Luckily, an intelligent and informed parent has arranged for baby to experience a safe and secure water environment. A carefully supervised early experience with the pool and a well fitted and appropriate life jacket will help keep baby safe. Too often we learn of children who become fearful or whose lives are endangered if not safely introduced to the water and the swimming experience. Contact your local community pool, the Red Cross and Safe Kids to learn more about water safety



Congratulations to all! We hope your school, your community and local papers and newsletters will help you tell the story of your participation in Family and Consumer Sciences Classes and Discover Parenting - 2018. Teachers, look for the Discover Parenting 2019 registration soon at www.usep-ohio.org and view the Discover Parenting photos from this year and the past. 2019 Deadline for photos - April 15.

Cindy McKay